

TRUE NORTHERNER.

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COUNTY local option seems to be the most available and effectual means at hand for dealing with the drink evil.

It was in a saloon that the DAKIN fool bribery scheme was concocted. That was according to the eternal fitness of things.

Thus political influence of the saloon must, sooner or later, be overthrown. The republican party is in a situation to overthrow it. Let the issue be met manfully.

ACCORDING to latest reports, legislators are cheap in the Lansing market. We quote prices at from five to twenty-five dollars, according to quality. Vide Representative DAKIN's last schedule.

GOVERNOR LUCE has appointed Col. D. B. AINGER of Charlotte, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Adjutant General ROBERTSON. The selection is a good one. Col. AINGER is president of the Michigan Press Association. The NORTHERNER congratulates him on his promotion.

The republican party cannot afford to ignore the popular demand for more restrictive temperance legislation. The signs of the times indicate that the old democratic party will abandon itself to the influence of the saloon in politics. The republican party should be ready to meet the issue. The lines cannot be drawn any too soon.

MR. CLEVELAND is very tenacious of his prerogatives. He caused two pension clerks to be discharged for attempting to be witty in writing letters relative to pension claims. The president don't mean to have any understrapper trench upon his peculiar privileges. If old soldiers are to be ridiculed, he proposes to do it himself, by placing them on the dangerous saddle horn or in some other equally funny (?) predicament.

SINCE the defeat of the prohibitory amendment, there is a strong and rapidly growing sentiment among the people in favor of local option by counties, coupled with increased taxation and more stringent restrictions, for the suppression and regulation of the liquor traffic. Our legislators will do well to heed the lesson of the late election by giving the people additional legislation in this matter. It is the most pressing and important topic of the present hour. It demands and must receive full recognition.

ONE of our most valued county exchanges, in its last week's issue, commented on the fact that, as it alleged, Florida had elected a United States Senator and left the versatile JONES out in the cold. Wasn't such statement a little previous? At this writing, the Florida legislature has not yet elected a senator, but is still engaged in a protracted effort to accomplish such result. There appears, however, to be no probability that the senatorial lightning will again strike that distinguished citizen of Detroit who rejoices in the euphonious, unusual and classical cognomen of JONES.

CERTAIN taxation will bear down hard this year, but the liquor taxes will alleviate the burden somewhat hereafter, says the Detroit Evening Journal. In other words, a large share of the city taxes will be collected from those whose families will suffer for the necessities of life and perhaps become paupers because of the drunkenness, dissipation and beer guzzling of husbands and fathers, and thus the purses of those who ought to bear the burden of taxation will be relieved from too heavy a pressure. It is not from but through the saloon that the liquor tax is collected. And it is such a system that the Journal and its Detroit contemporaries advocate and uphold as preferable to prohibition.

THE Detroit Free Press has repeatedly, when commenting upon the defeat of the salaries amendment, urged the policy of taking the salary question out of the constitution and leaving it to be dealt with by the legislature. The Free Press seems to have forgotten that its suggestions have been anticipated and that an amendment empowering the legislature to fix the salaries of state officers was submitted to a vote of the people at the general election held last November, and snowed under by a majority of 60,220 votes. It seems to be the fixed determination of the electors of this state to have none but comparatively wealthy men for state officers. The present niggardly salaries are ample notice that no poor man need apply.

THE report of the committee that has been investigating the question of graveyard insurance reveals a state of affairs that fully justifies everything that has been published concerning its iniquities. It shows that fraud, forgery, falsifying records and speculation on the lives—or rather on the death—of aged and infirm parties have been carried on to an alarming extent. The legislature will be afforded an excellent opportunity to show the rigidity of its spinal column in dealing with this corrupt and corrupting business. Representative CROSS is entitled to a vote of thanks from the entire state for the manly, vigorous and honorable position he has taken in this matter and for his untiring efforts to unearth and bring to light the frauds that have been perpetrated by the managers and promoters of these rotten companies.

THE Hillsdale Democrat contains an article severely condemning "the selling of space in newspapers to factions, or parties, or theorists, for the presentation of their views on public or political questions." It cites as examples the Detroit Evening News, selling its advertising space to boom a republican candidate for congress; its selling space to Mr. DICKER in which to advocate the prohibi-

itory amendment, and adds: "We see that many country newspapers have taken the same course in selling columns to be used by local temperance organizations." It thinks "a newspaper worthy of the name will have opinions on public matters and will express them; it will manage by hook or by crook to do its own editing, without the necessity of selling columns to be 'edited' by amateurs, bunglers, or scheming office seekers." We are not at all inclined to take issue with the Democrat in these matters; we believe in an editor being an editor in fact as well as in name. If he don't know enough to edit his own paper, he should step down and out and give place to someone who does. But, Bro. Democrat, why confine your criticisms so closely to papers that sell space to temperance people, and utter no word of condemnation of those who sold themselves to the saloon element? It is a self evident fact that many such sales were made, not only of space in their papers, but of the editors themselves. We do not intend to cast any reflections on the Democrat; it, doubtless, acted up to its convictions on the amendment question, just as did the NORTHERNER; we only speak in a general way. But, surely, if a paper must sell itself, it had better be sold in the interests of temperance and morality than to aid drunkenness, pauperism and crime.

ONE of the most astute performances ever attempted was that of MILO H. DAKIN, fusion representative from the first district of Saginaw county, in undertaking to obtain money from Mr. FREDERICK L. EATON of Saginaw, for the avowed purpose of influencing the votes of certain members of the house of representatives—seventeen in number—on the question of the adoption of a new charter for the city of Saginaw, now pending before the legislature. From five to twenty-five dollars each was the price for which he advertised the gentlemen named would sell themselves—cheap enough, in all conscience, provided they were in the market. Mr. DAKIN's action furnishes convincing proof that he is both a knave and a fool. No one but a knave could have conceived such a scheme and no one but a fool would have made such bungling work in attempting to put the scheme into operation. The matter being brought to the attention of the house, prompt action was taken, a committee appointed and articles of impeachment at once prepared, submitted and adopted. Yesterday, the 26th inst., was the day appointed for the beginning of the public proceedings against him. There is little doubt that he will have to pack his little gripsack and step down and out, and that the halls of legislation will know him no more forever. If the charges shall be sustained, and it is difficult to see how there can be any other result, anything short of expulsion will not maintain the dignity of the honorable body of which he has shown himself to be an unworthy member. It is but right and just to say that not a shadow of suspicion rests upon the character of those members whom Mr. DAKIN proposed to buy so cheaply, and they, very naturally, feel indignant at being advertised to their constituents and to the world as men whose votes are in the market.

AT the beginning of the year, this paper, as usual, entered into a contract with the Michigan Central railroad to publish its time-tables in exchange for an "editorial ticket," entitling the party to whom it was issued—nobody else—to a certain number of rides on the road. We have continued up to the present time, to fulfill our part of the contract, but have enjoyed "nary a ride." The railroad company, pretending to act under the provisions of the inter-state commerce law, canceled its contract some weeks since, and we have concluded to give it no more "free advertising." That such cancellation was a mere pretense is evidenced by the fact that the company has not canceled the passes of the members of the legislature, for fear of the enactment of laws adverse to its interest and hoping to influence legislation by its grant of free transportation to the lawmakers of our state. We do not believe there is anything in the provisions of the new law compelling the railroads to violate the contracts already made with the newspaper fraternity, nor do we believe the railroad magnates themselves believe any such thing. But if their interpretation of the law is correct in regard to the newspapers, they are certainly guilty of a flagrant violation of the statute by continuing legislative passes. The fact is, the roads are doing all they can to make the commerce bill odious and, by giving it a forced and strained construction, either to secure its speedy abrogation or to put more money in their treasuries at the expense of the "dear people," who have, in the estimation of railroad magnates, no rights that railroads are bound to respect. They should be taught a wholesome lesson, and we know of no better way to give them the needed instruction than for the legislature to pass the bill reducing the fare to two cents per mile on all the trunk lines, and excepting from the provisions of the law only the short lines, upon which such reduction would be manifestly unjust. Two cents a mile is and long has been the established rate in some parts of the country and is all that Michigan travelers should be required to pay. The people and their interests are arrayed on one side, the rich railroad corporations and their interests on the other. Gentlemen legislators, choose ye whom ye will serve.

RENEWED Her Youth. Mrs. Phoebe Chesley, Peterson, Clay Co., Iowa, tells the following remarkable story, the truth of which is vouched for by the residents of the town: "I am 73 years old, have been troubled with kidney complaint and lameness for many years; could not dress myself without help. Now I am free from all pain and soreness and am able to do all my own housework. I owe my thanks to Electric Bitters for having renewed my youth, and removed completely all disease and pain." Try a bottle, only 50c., at Covert & Bartram's Drug Store.

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